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13 December 1966

Excerpt from CUSTOMS Daily Log - December 1966

9 December

John PETRUSZO

Mr. Lawrence Fleishman, without disclosing CIA interest, instructed his New York representative to verify whether or not Customs confiscated from Subject any documents or photographs on 8 October 1966 as alleged by the Subject. The Customs officer in New York immediately recalled that Subject recently sent a letter to New York Customs asking for return of the document allegedly taken from him when he went through Customs on 8 October. However, New York Customs has been unable to locate the document or any record of the incident. In fact they have been unable to locate the Customs declaration that should have been filed by Subject when he arrived in New York. Mr. Fleishman instructed his officer to immediately check airline manifests to verify Subject's arrival and all available Customs records to see if he filed a declaration describing what he was carrying into the U.S. Mr. Fleishman called back later that their New York office had verified from airline manifests that Subject arrived in New York on the flight and at the time he claimed, but so far they have recovered no record indicating that Customs seized any documents or material from Subject. In his letter to Customs Subject explained that the document was taken not by a uniformed officer of Customs (which would be a Customs baggage officer) but by a person in civilian clothes, who represented himself as a Customs official. Mr. Fleishman explained that such an officer would have to be one of his investigators if the story is true and so far they have no record that any of their officers were involved. He stated that this raises the question whether some other service hostile to us, acting under the cover of Customs authority, took the document. This remains speculative because there are still more records for Customs to check in New York. Mr. Fleishman is the only Customs officer that knows our interest in verifying Subject's story and recovering the document. I did not inform him of the details behind our interest.

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